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**PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE**  
**MEETINGS OF THE CHAMBER OF**  
**PRINCES (NARENDRA MANDAL)**

*Held at New Delhi on the 16th and 17th March 1942*

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## AGENDA.

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### CHAMBER OF PRINCES.

March 1942.

1. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

“The Chamber of Princes records its profound sense of grief at the demise of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who inaugurated this Chamber, and requests His Excellency the President to be so kind as to convey to Their Imperial Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress its deepest sympathies in their sad bereavement.”

*Seconder.*—His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.

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2. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

“The Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow on the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Manipur, the Maharaja of Charkhari, the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra, together with its sense of loss thereby sustained by the entire Order of the Princes and offers its sincere sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families.”

*Seconder.*—His Highness the Maharaja Rana Saheb of Porbandar.

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3. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

“The Chamber of Princes offers its heartiest congratulations to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Kolhapur, the Maharaja of Manipur, the Maharaja of Bijawar, the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra on their accession to the *Gaddi* and wishes them a long and prosperous life.”

*Seconder.*—His Highness the Nawab of Rampur.

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4. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

“The Chamber of Princes reiterates the firm determination of the Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India to continue to render every possible assistance to His Imperial Majesty and his Government for the successful prosecution of war and for the defence of their motherland, until final victory is achieved and the high principles of justice and sacredness of Treaties and Covenants are vindicated.”

*Seconder.*—His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.

*Supporters.*—

His Highness the Nawab of Rampur.

His Highness the Raja of Mandi.

His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar.



5. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

“The Chamber of Princes recommends to His Excellency the Crown Representative that in cases in which the period of limitation prescribed for appeal, review, revision or representation, etc., to the Crown, or the Secretary of State for India, or the Crown Representative, or the Crown Department, expires during the continuance of the present war, and notice is given within time by the State concerned that it is proposed to postpone further action in the matter until the end of the war, the prescribed period of limitation shall be deemed to have been extended up to a period of one year after the conclusion of the war.”

*Secunder.*—His Highness the Nawab of Rampur.

6. To receive a statement from His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar reviewing the work performed by the Chamber of Princes during the last year.

7. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

“(a) This Chamber welcomes the Announcement made in the House of Commons on the 11th March, 1942, by the Prime Minister and the forthcoming visit to India of the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons, and expresses the hope that it may help to unite India to intensify further her war effort and to strengthen measures for the defence of the motherland.

(b) This Chamber has repeatedly made it clear that any scheme to be acceptable to the States must effectively protect their rights arising from Treaties, Engagements and Sanads or otherwise and ensure the future existence, sovereignty and autonomy of the States thereunder guaranteed, and leave them complete freedom duly to discharge their obligations to the Crown and to their subjects; it therefore notes with particular satisfaction the reference in the Announcement of the Prime Minister to the fulfilment of the Treaty obligations to the Indian States.

(c) This Chamber authorises its representatives to carry on discussions and negotiations for the constitutional advance of India with due regard to the successful prosecution of war and the interests of States, and subject to final confirmation by the Chamber and without prejudice to the right of individual States to be consulted in respect of any proposals affecting their treaty or other inherent rights.”

*Secunder.*—His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.

*Supporters.*—

His Highness the Raja of Sangli.

His Highness the Raja of Mandi.

His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Junior).

8. Vote of thanks to His Highness the Chancellor.

*Mover.*—His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.

*Secunder.*—His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.

*Supporter.*—His Highness the Maharaja of Panna.

**WORK-CARD.****CHAMBER OF PRINCES (NARENDRA MANDAL).**

March 1942.

**Monday, the 16th March 1942.**

1. His Excellency the Crown Representative will on arrival greet the Members and Representative Members who will be presented individually by His Highness the Chancellor.

2. His Excellency the Crown Representative will deliver an address.

3. Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the demise of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. (Agendum No. 1).

4. Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Manipur, the Maharaja of Charkhari, the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra. (Agendum No. 2).

5. Resolution of welcome by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Kolhapur, the Maharaja of Manipur, the Maharaja of Bijawar, the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra. (Agendum No. 3).

6. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the latest position regarding the war situation. (Agendum No. 4).

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**Tuesday, the 17th March 1942.**

1. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar regarding extension of time for appeals, etc., by the Ruler or the Government of the States in cases where limitation expires during the continuation of the war. (Agendum No. 5).

2. To receive a statement from His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar reviewing the work performed by the Chamber of Princes during the last year. (Agendum No. 6).

3. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the Political situation in India so far as it affects the States. (Agendum No. 7).

4. Vote of thanks to His Highness the Chancellor. (Agendum No. 8).

5. Reply of the Members and Representative Members to His Excellency the Crown Representative's address.

6. His Excellency the Crown Representative will then conclude the proceedings.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST DAY.

*16th March, 1942.*

The Chamber assembled at the Princes' Chamber, Council House at 11 A.M., on Monday, the 16th March, 1942. His Excellency the Crown Representative presided.

The following Ruling Princes and Chiefs were present:—

### Central India States.

His Highness the Maharaja of Deras	The Raja of Nagod.
(Junior Branch).	His Highness the Maharaja of Panna.
His Highness the Maharaja of Dhar.	The Raja of Sarila.
His Highness the Nawab of Jaora.	

### Deccan States.

The Raja of Jamkhadi.	The Raja of Kurundwad (Junior).
	His Highness the Raja of Sangli.

### Eastern States.

The Raja of Bamra.	The Maharaja of Patna.
His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar.	The Raja of Seraikela.
The Raja of Daspalla.	The Maharaja of Sonapur.
The Raja of Dhenkanal.	His Highness the Maharaja of Tripura.
The Maharaja of Kalahandi.	

### Gujarat States.

The Raja of Chhota-Udepur.	The Nawab of Sachin.
The Raja of Jawhar.	

### Gwalior Agency.

His Highness the Nawab of Rampur.

### Punjab States.

His Highness the Raja of Faridkot.	His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.
The Raja of Jubbah.	His Highness the Maharaja of Nabha.
His Highness the Raja of Mandi.	His Highness the Maharaja of Sirmur.
	His Highness the Maharaja of Tehri-Garhwal.

### Rajputana States.

His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar.	His Highness the Maharawal of Durgapur.
His Highness the Maharaja of Bharatpur.	His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur.
His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.	His Highness the Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar.
His Highness the Maharao Raja of Bundi.	His Highness the Maharao of Kotah.

### Western India States.

His Highness the Maharaja of Bhavnagar.	His Highness the Maharaja Rana Saheb of Porbandar.
His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar.	The Chief of Wadia.
The Thakore Saheb of Palitana.	His Highness the Maharana Raj Saheb of Wankaner.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative's speech at the opening of the  
1942 Session of the Chamber of Princes on 16th March 1942.**

YOUR HIGHNESSES,—

It is my privilege today to preside, for the fifth time during my tenure of office, over the Chamber of Princes, and it is with real pleasure that I see so goodly a gathering of Your Highnesses assembled here today. My satisfaction is the greater because the time itself demands that those in authority in this country should meet and take counsel for the common good. A good attendance is also appropriate to the celebration, as it were, of the Chamber's coming of age. It is just over 21 years since this Chamber was inaugurated here in Delhi by His late Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, the close of whose long career of devoted public service is so fresh in our recollection. I notice that in the course of our proceedings Your Highnesses propose to pay what I know will be something more than a formal tribute to his memory. For myself I will say only this. Few of us who are here today can have been present at that inauguration ceremony, but we shall all do well to bear in mind the eloquent words in which His Royal Highness then described the purpose of this Chamber and the lofty ideals which he set before it. One passage in that historic speech has struck me as peculiarly relevant to the circumstances in which we find ourselves today. His Royal Highness spoke of the King-Emperor's confidence that in good times or evil the fidelity and unswerving support of the Indian Princes could always be counted upon, and recalled how "when most was needed, most was given". I am very sure that in the closing months of his long life His Royal Highness must have derived much comfort from the manner in which it has been demonstrated by the present generation of Princes that those words are as true now as they were 21 years ago.

In India, too, we have the loss of old friends and colleagues to mourn. By the death of His late Highness of Cutch the Princely Order has lost a distinguished and venerated member, a Ruler endowed with singular charm of personality, who so long ago as 1921 had the distinction of representing India at the Imperial Council in London, as well as at the Assembly of the League of Nations. We mourn also the passing of Their Highnesses of Cochin, Manipur, Charkhari and Dhrangadhra, to whose bereaved families and States this Chamber will no doubt offer its condolences, as well as a message of welcome to those upon whom their great responsibilities will now devolve. And in this category of new Rulers to whom we look to carry on the high traditions of their ancestors I would include the young Maharajas of Kolhapur and Bijawar to whom His Majesty's recognition has been accorded since the last meeting of this Chamber.

There is however one sphere in which, for the time being at least, the old order will not change nor give place to new. I refer to the circumstances, which to the best of my belief are unprecedented, in which Their Highnesses the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor of the Chamber are to continue in their high offices. In the ordinary course of events elections would by now have taken place and the results would have been announced during our present session. A proposal was however made by certain members of the Standing Committee in accordance with a provision to that effect which had been wisely included in the Chamber's Constitution, that the terms of office of the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor should be extended. The views of all members of the Standing Committee were then, as required by the Regulations, formally invited, with the result that, the requisite proportion having signified their consent, Their Highnesses of Nawanagar and Bikaner were asked to continue in office for a second term.

We have an English proverb which tells us that it is unwise to change horses in midstream. At this time we in India are crossing a very turbulent stream and I do indeed feel that it would be regrettable, from the point of view of this Chamber and of the States in general, if we lost the services of these two Princes to whom, if I may speak for Your Highnesses as well as for myself, we all owe so great a debt of gratitude. I do not need to tell you about the treasure-house of wisdom and experience which His Highness of Bikaner has acquired in the course of his long and most distinguished career. As for His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb I cannot praise too highly the cheerful alacrity with which he has responded to our incessant demands upon his time and patience. In fact the necessity for his advice and support at headquarters has recurred so frequently that he must have come to look upon Delhi and Simla as a kind of second home. I think therefore that I shall be rightly interpreting the sense of opinion in this Chamber by conveying to both Their Highnesses an expression of our gratitude that, in deference to the wishes of their Brother Princes, they have consented to continue in the performance of their duties as Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor.

I shall refer later to the war situation and to the part played by the Princes in that connection. But in these critical times it behoves us to remember factors which, though not directly connected with the present grave trend of events, are nevertheless of immense importance from the point of view of the Indian States. I refer particularly to the urgent need for the States to adjust themselves to the rapidly changing currents of world opinion, and to leave undone nothing which will help to achieve not only their own healthy development, but also, if I may strike a graver note, their survival as valued and respected elements in the new Indian policy which has yet to be evolved. I shall therefore speak as briefly as possible regarding three matters which, during the past year, have continued to engage the earnest attention of myself and my Advisers—amongst whom I would include your distinguished Chancellor.

First, I regard it as my duty to repeat in as few words as possible what I have said in previous addresses to this Chamber regarding the absolute necessity, so far as the smaller States are concerned, for some form of co-operative measures to secure a standard of administrative efficiency which is beyond their individual resources. In my last address I remarked that steps to this end had already been taken in many parts of India with visible, though not as yet spectacular, results. The last year has seen further and encouraging progress, but I regret to observe that the progress has been mainly apparent in one area only.

Elsewhere there are schemes to this end under consideration; but there are other large areas, comprising many States which in my judgment can certainly not afford to stand aloof in this matter, where no sign of this vital principle of co-operation has yet begun to emerge. It is my duty therefore to urge all concerned to press forward in this matter, and to realise that when I urged upon this Chamber the necessity for some form of pooling of sovereignty I did not do so without full appreciation of the sacrifices involved, nor yet of the gravity of eventual consequences which my advice was designed to avert.

Secondly, I should let Your Highnesses know that I have had under consideration a scheme designed for the safeguarding, during the initial years of a young Ruler's responsibilities, of standards achieved under periods of minority administration. A definite policy still remains to be formulated; but I have reached the preliminary conclusion that the object.

in view can best be achieved by a formal constitution under which all State business would be transacted in a Council of Ministers over which the Ruler would normally preside and whose recommendations he would not disregard or override without good reason. So great are the powers and responsibilities to which Rulers succeed at an early age, and so numerous the pitfalls which beset their footsteps, that no one who has the best interests of the States at heart could, in my opinion, take exception to safeguards of this nature, designed as they are mainly for the purpose of inculcating into young Princes the habit of orderly and methodical disposal of business.

Thirdly, and lastly, I should like to say that I was delighted to learn recently that, in spite of all other preoccupations, the vexed question of Civil Lists and Privy Purses has again been receiving the active attention of Your Highnesses. This problem, of deciding what proportion of a State's revenue can appropriately be earmarked for the use of the Ruler and his family, and what precisely are the items which should legitimately come within the scope of Privy Purse expenditure, is one of the greatest complexity and delicacy. The general principle that such distinctions ought to be made was unanimously accepted at the session of this Chamber in 1928 after a full debate on a Resolution very eloquently moved by His Highness of Bikaner. Experience has perhaps since shown how difficult is the task of translating principle into practice. Nevertheless, it ought to be tackled with courage and resolution. I applaud, therefore, the foresight and statesmanship of those among Your Highnesses who are making such determined efforts in that direction. It would indeed be a notable achievement if those efforts were to lead to the formulation of some systematic plan likely to commend itself to the Rulers as a body and such as I or my successor could confidently recommend for acceptance by this Chamber, and thereafter by all individual States. I trust, therefore, that the endeavour will be energetically pursued and that, in order that we may not be at cross purposes in so vital a matter, the Chancellor and Their Highnesses of the Standing Committee will not hesitate to take my Political Adviser into their confidence before the final stage of their deliberations is reached.

I address myself now to the sterner topic of the war and all that it means to us. When I last addressed Your Highnesses, it was my privilege to acknowledge the inestimable value of the co-operation and generous support of the Indian States to the war effort of India as a whole. The last twelve months have seen the war reach the threshold of India and have added greatly to the demands for every kind of service and sacrifice made upon us all. The response of the States to these demands, which must become more insistent as the tempo of the struggle quickens, continues to be worthy of their great traditions; their contribution covers every field of India's war effort and embraces every form of service. Several of Your Highnesses have visited our Indian troops in different theatres of the war,—visits which have been as highly appreciated by our officers and men as, I am sure, they were instructive and encouraging to Your Highnesses. It is also a matter for special pride that the Princely Order includes some who have served, are serving, or are preparing to serve, as combatants with His Majesty's Forces in the field. There is one particular case which I think Your Highnesses would wish me to mention, namely, that of the eldest son and Heir of a member of this Chamber, who met an untimely death in the course of his duties as an officer of the Indian Air Force. To His Highness the Maharaja of Sikkim, I would like to offer on behalf of this Chamber as well as from myself a sincere expression of our deepest sympathy.

Apart from the personal services of Rulers and members of their families, the man-power contribution of the States, whether to the Indian Army or their own State Forces, has been of the highest value; in money their support continues to be generous and unstinted; in material, be it aircraft, house accommodation, rolling stock, launches, the produce of their forests, mines and factories, or the provision of comforts for the troops, they have done everything in their power to meet, and indeed to anticipate, all of the many calls made on them. Whatever difficulties and dangers lie ahead, I am confident that the great measure of support which the Indian States have given so freely and so spontaneously will be maintained and even augmented.

I referred in my last address to Your Highnesses to the efforts made to keep the Indian States in close touch with current events of importance, and expressed the hope that the steps taken to ensure the closest co-operation between the States and British India would be of mutual benefit. Since then the scope of the measures taken to achieve maximum co-ordination has steadily expanded. The most signal instance of this united front has been the participation of representative Princes in the deliberations of the National Defence Council, and I welcome this opportunity to express my deep appreciation of the readiness of those Rulers, in spite of their many pressing preoccupations at this time, to make long journeys to Delhi or Simla in order to lend the prestige of their presence and the weight of their experience to this most important Council of War. I sincerely trust that I may be able to count upon the continuation, at its future meetings, of this personal support, the need and the value of which will now be even greater than before.

I believe too that the representation which the States now enjoy on the Central Price Control Conference and the Provincial Price, Supply and Transport Boards, as well as on the other organisations which I mentioned last year, and the informal discussions which some of Your Highnesses have had, and are about to have, with the Supply, Commerce and Civil Defence Members of my Council, will be of the greatest advantage not only to the States but to the whole of India. To associate the States even more closely with the Central Government, and to place readily and promptly at their disposal the fullest and most up-to-date information on economic, Civil Defence and other matters, direct correspondence between certain Departments of the Government of India and the larger States has been authorised, and an officer has been added to the staff of the Civil Defence Department to deal solely with Civil Defence problems affecting the States. I trust that Your Highnesses will not fail to seek the advice of that Department on the measure which should be taken in your States to provide adequate protection for your subjects against the consequences of attacks from the air. While in some parts of the country that danger may still appear remote, in others it is unquestionably a grim and imminent possibility which must be faced, and the need for making timely and adequate preparations cannot be over-emphasised. I earnestly desire, therefore, to impress upon Your Highnesses the heavy responsibility which each State must shoulder and discharge in this matter which so closely affects the safety of its people.

I am aware that some of Your Highnesses have expressed some disappointment at the shortage of modern arms and equipment available for supply to Indian States Forces training units. Steps have been taken to make good this deficiency so far as the situation permits, but Your Highnesses will agree with me that it must be left to General Headquarters to decide how best such supplies of arms and equipment as are available can be utilised. Some of Your Highnesses have, from time to time, expressed

a desire that Indian States Forces units should be given a more active rôle than had in their judgment been allotted to them. The recent fighting in Malaya, culminating in the fall of Singapore and the loss of many of our valuable troops, including a number of units of the Indian States Forces, will, I think, have convinced Your Highnesses that a regiment employed in such a rôle as guarding an aerodrome is rendering vitally important service, and may at any moment find itself at grips with the enemy. I trust, therefore, that Your Highnesses will appreciate that all of your units serving with His Majesty's Forces, whatever rôle be allotted to them, are contributing with equal value to the common object. When I addressed you in this Chamber last year, I said, in referring to the different conditions of service obtaining in the Indian States Forces and the Indian Army, that "in uniformity lies simplicity and efficiency". Since then several proposals of importance to that end have been made to States maintaining Indian States Forces and have been accepted, although in certain cases with some reluctance and delay. I fully realise that proposals designed to eliminate such differences as still exist between the conditions of service in the Indian States Forces and the Indian Army may not always be welcome, but I wish to assure Your Highnesses that they are made solely with a view to increasing the efficiency of the Indian States Forces and are intended to have effect only for the duration of the war, after which the whole scheme under which those Forces are embodied will come under review in the light of the experience gained. Meanwhile, in the present grave emergency I am confident that Your Highnesses will not hesitate to agree temporarily to forego, in the common interest, prerogatives and privileges, however greatly they may be valued, should they in any way impede India's war effort. I desire, in this connection, to mention particularly the commendable action of certain States in the Eastern States Agency in voluntarily delegating authority to the Resident to make decisions on their behalf in matters affecting the military situation, provided that such decisions are communicated to them immediately afterwards.

The flower of India's manhood is to be found today in the Indian Army and the Indian States Forces, but I need not remind Your Highnesses that a constant stream of reinforcements must be maintained and that the need for augmenting our present forces is insistent. Above all, young men of the best type are required to come forward and be trained to lead our troops; modern war demands a high degree of training and initiative from military leaders, and I hope that Your Highnesses will do everything in your power to ensure that institutions such as the Pre-Cadet School at Indore, which have been set up to enlarge the supply of potential officers, are fully supported. I trust also that Your Highnesses will not allow the need to maintain a reasonable margin of safety in regard to your local arrangements for internal security unduly to hamper the making of the utmost possible contribution to the forces which India requires to repel external aggression; regard to local arrangements for internal security is natural and prudent, but in the present emergency the interests and safety of India as a whole demand that every able-bodied man and every unit that is not essentially required for the maintenance of internal tranquillity should be made available to resist and attack and finally to defeat the common enemy.

That final victory is only a matter of time I entertain no manner of doubt. But I would emphasise that the speed and success with which that goal will be attained, and in fact the very safety of India, her dignity and her standing in the eyes of the world, will in no small measure depend upon the attitude of her people to the threat of aggression. There has been



peace in this land for so long a period that we had perhaps become too prone to believe that nothing could disturb it, too sceptical of the need for making sacrifices for its preservation. That peace is now rudely threatened, and it behoves us all, and not least Your Highnesses, who are the hereditary wardens of India's martial traditions, to show that India has the strength and determination to face and defeat the common enemy. With that in view I earnestly invite the support and co-operation of Your Highnesses in the National War Front. Your Highnesses will have read my message. The objects of the National War Front—which I believe will attract innumerable adherents throughout the length and breadth of India—are to maintain public morale, to eradicate all elements tending to undermine it; and in particular to counteract fifth-column activities of all kinds, including all talk, thought, writings and rumours likely to encourage a defeatist outlook, to inculcate faith, courage and endurance; and to consolidate the national will to offer united resistance to Nazism and Fascism in every shape or form, whether within or without the country, until their menace is finally overthrown. I trust that the National War Front will derive its strength and vitality from the patriotism of private citizens and public-spirited leaders. It will be their task not only to resist the insidious forces of evil but to assume the initiative and to inculcate the principle that no form of defence is more effective than attack.

The indomitable Prime Minister of Great Britain has asked:—"what sort of people do our enemies think we are?" Our enemies shall learn, if they have not learnt already to their cost, what kind of men this land of India breeds. India has vast material resources. She has mighty Allies. She has a great soldier for her Commander-in-Chief. She has the loyalty and bravery of her sons who are heirs to the superb traditions of the Indian Army and who are already writing the first chapters of a glorious record for the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force. Within the last few days India has received a message of new hope for all who look to see her take her rightful place among the free nations of the world. There is now coming to us across the world a Minister who, in Mr. Churchill's words, carries the full confidence of His Majesty's Government and will strive in their name to secure the necessary measure of assent to the conclusions on which they are agreed. In Sir Stafford Cripps India has a trusted friend on whose fairness she can rely, a statesman who has already carried out with conspicuous success one important mission in a distant land, and who is animated with a burning zeal for the defeat and final extinction of the aggressors and all they stand for. Your Highnesses can count on his readiness to give the fullest considerations to the views which you will doubtless lay before him, and I know that I can rely on you to give him a warm welcome and your whole-hearted co-operation in the discharge of his great responsibilities. For you know full well that on you, the representatives of Princely India, lies, as on us all, an obligation to secure for India a triumphant and happy issue out of this, her testing time of trial and danger.

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#### Agendum No. 1.

*Resolution of condolence on the demise of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.*

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I rise to move the resolution of condolence on the demise of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. He was the oldest member of the Royal House of Windsor; and the ties of personal attachment which bind the Indian Princes with Their Imperial

Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress and their illustrious House make their grief our grief. We shall therefore be grateful, if Your Excellency, as our President, will be so good as to convey to Their Imperial Majesties our respectful and deepest sympathies in their sad bereavement.

2. Your Excellency is aware, that His late Royal Highness has had a most distinguished record of services to the Commonwealth. He served in India as G. O. C., Southern Command. He also rendered valuable services as Commander-in-Chief and High Commissioner in the Mediterranean, Governor General of Canada, the Inspector General of British Forces and in other spheres.

3. To this Chamber, the name and memory of His late Royal Highness has a special significance. It was he whom our beloved King-Emperor deputed to inaugurate on his behalf the Chamber of Princes. The speech which His Royal Highness made on that occasion, with the unique position and authority which he commanded is a land-mark in our proceedings. Your Excellency has been pleased to refer to one important passage of that speech. I will, with your permission, refer to another passage in the speech, which shows the high place which the Indian Princes and their treaties rightly occupy in the estimation of the illustrious House of Windsor. His late Royal Highness stated as follows:—

“The sanctity of the treaties is a cardinal article of Imperial Policy. It was affirmed by my beloved mother, the Great Queen Victoria, in her famous Proclamation of 1858. It was re-affirmed by King Edward the Seventh; and His present Majesty, King George the Fifth, has once more announced in his Proclamation his “determination ever to maintain unimpaired the privileges, rights and dignities of the Princes.” Nothing is wanting to mark the solemnity of this time-honoured engagement; and no words of mine are needed to reassure Your Highnesses that the British Government will stand faithfully by its promises. I would only ask you, when you come to discuss any difficult question of practice in your relations with the Government of India or of the interpretation of your treaties, to remember that these pledges will be ever present to the minds of the officers of British Crown. A generous spirit on your part will find its response in equal generosity on the part of the Government of India. You may rest assured that the Government and its officers will recognise freely the internal sovereignty to which your various treaties and engagements entitle you.”

Today we mourn his loss, let us all honour his memory by maintaining the high traditions and expectations with which, in the name of His Majesty the King-Emperor, His late Royal Highness inaugurated this Chamber.

4. With these words, I rise to move the Resolution which reads as follows:—

“The Chamber of Princes records its profound sense of grief at the demise of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught who inaugurated this Chamber, and requests His Excellency the President to be so kind as to convey to Their Imperial Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress its deepest sympathies in their sad bereavement.”

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: It is with a deep sense of personal sorrow that I rise to second the Resolution and pay this last tribute to the revered memory of His Royal Highness the late Duke of Connaught.

A great soldier and Prince, the late Duke was held in universal esteem and affection all over the British Empire both for his outstanding personal qualities, and as the last surviving son of the great Queen Victoria of imperishable memory. India, especially, cherished his name as he had not only put in military service here but had visited the country on more than one occasion, including his memorable visit to inaugurate the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms and to open the Chamber of Princes.

I had the honour of knowing His Royal Highness since my early days and during all that time I was the recipient of special kindness and courtesy at his hands; and it was due entirely to His Royal Highness' kind initiative that I was appointed an Honorary Aide-de-Camp to our late beloved King-Emperor George V at the time when he was Prince of Wales in 1902—an appointment which I held for over a third of a century.

It is thus with feelings of deep reverence, affection and gratitude that I shall always cherish the memory of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, and with these words I beg to second this Resolution.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** Is it Your Highnesses' pleasure that this Resolution be adopted?

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

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### Agendum No. 2.

*Resolution of condolence on the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Manipur, the Maharaja of Charkhari, the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra.*

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I rise to perform the sad part of my duty this morning and move the resolution of condolence on the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Manipur, the Maharaja of Charkhari, the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra.

2. The toll of death, since our last meeting, has been very heavy. His late Highness the Maharao of Cutch was my uncle and he was, as you all know, a most respected member of our Order. For many years he was a member of the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes, and was also elected its Pro-Chancellor, as a mark of our confidence which he richly enjoyed and throughout maintained. He was invited in 1921 as our representative to the Imperial Conference and to the Assembly of the League of Nations. His late Highness combined the prudence of his generation, with a great personality, a genuine solicitude for his subjects, and a keen desire to strengthen the solidarity of the Princely Order. These earned him the devotion of his subjects and the respect of his Order. His Highness was a statesman of rare ability and his ripe judgment and wise counsel were always a great asset to the Princes in their many difficult problems. In his own simple and dignified way he represented in his person the best traditions of a Rajput. The void left by his passing away would indeed be very difficult to fill.

3. His late Highness the Maharaja of Cochin ruled for a brief period of 9 years, during which he initiated various improvements in the Cochin Port, and in the departments of his State. These included the establishment of an independent High Court and a Legislative Council with a majority of elected members.

4. His late Highness the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra was my brother-in-law, and I cannot restrain my feelings at the thought, that his unexpected and premature demise occurred while I was here for the meetings of the National Defence Council. His late Highness was loved by his brother Princes in and outside Western India, and the improvements in various directions made by him in the State, and the interest which he took in the affairs of this Chamber, are proofs of his great solicitude for his subjects and genuine regard for the welfare of the Princely Order. The loss of his genial personality and constant readiness even at great personal sacrifice to advise and assist his brother Princes and indeed everyone else who sought his help will be keenly felt by the Princes and people of Kathiawar.

5. His late Highness of Manipur was a wise and farsighted ruler. He introduced many reforms and beneficent projects. These included the provision of modern water-works for his capital, reorganisation of the Police and Judiciary, and the complete overhauling of nation-building Departments.

6. His late Highness the Maharaja of Charkhari was a Prince of genial personality. He introduced various improvements in the Revenue Department of his State and substantially reduced the Customs Tariff for the benefit of his poor subjects.

I am sure Your Highnesses will join me in the resolution which I beg to move:—

“The Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow on the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Manipur, the Maharaja of Charkhari, the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra, together with its sense of loss thereby sustained by the entire Order of the Princes and offers its sincere sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families.”

**His Highness the Maharaja Rana Saheb of Porbandar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, I second the Resolution.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** Is it Your Highnesses' pleasure that this Resolution be adopted?

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

#### **Agendum No. 3.**

*Resolution of welcome to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Kolhapur, the Maharaja of Manipur, the Maharaja of Bijawar, the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra.*

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: It is with great pleasure that I rise to move the resolution of welcome to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Kolhapur, the Maharaja of Manipur, the Maharaja of Bijawar, the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra.

2. His Highness the young Prince of Kolhapur succeeds to the great heritage of a very much respected House.

3. His Highness the present Maharao of Cutch is not a stranger to this Chamber and is an accomplished Prince, highly educated, widely travelled and trained for the important work that awaits him.

4. His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin is a Ruler of great administrative experience and high training.

5. His Highness the Maharaja of Manipur has had a very promising career at the Rajkumar College and is a widely travelled prince with a broad outlook.

6. His Highness the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra, my nephew, has had a sound and thorough education and is a steady Prince and a fine sportsman.

7. His Highness the Maharaja of Bijawar succeeds to an ancient House in Central India.

8. The Princes whom I have the pleasure of welcoming today, take over great heritages at an acute phase of transition in India and abroad. They will be called upon to justify their ancestral traditions to their subjects, and the institution of Indian Kingship to a critical world. I confidently hope that, by example and service, they would win the affections of their subjects and they will strengthen the solidarity of their Order by taking active interest in the activities of this Chamber. I now move the resolution :—

“The Chamber of Princes offers its heartiest congratulations to their Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Kolhapur, the Maharaja of Manipur, the Maharaja of Bijawar, the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra on their accession to the *Gaddi* and wishes them a long and prosperous life.”

**His Highness the Nawab of Rampur:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, I second the Resolution.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** Is it Your Highnesses' pleasure that this Resolution be adopted?

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

#### **Agendum No. 4.**

*Resolution on the latest position regarding the war situation.*

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam. Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, I deem it an honour to move this Resolution, which embodies and reiterates the determination and faith of the Indian Princes and Chiefs at this juncture. It is a solemn resolution, and it carries behind it the strength of our entire resources and the grim resolve of the Indian Princes and their devoted subjects.

2. Your Excellency has referred in your Address today, to what you have been pleased to describe, as the inestimable value of the co-operation and generous support of the Indian States to the war effort. We are proud of the assistance we could render. We are determined to spare nothing within our power. We are pledged to do all we can. Difficulties and dangers will come. We are ready and willing to meet them. In fact they are part of the game in a gigantic struggle like the present. Your Excellency may assure His Imperial Majesty our beloved King-Emperor, that whatever may come our support shall be maintained spontaneously and cheerfully and that it will be augmented to meet all emergencies.

3. It is a matter of special pride to us that our Order includes many who have served, are serving, or are prepared to face the enemy in fighting line. Some of us were privileged to visit the troops in the Middle East and elsewhere. I was one of them; and I can speak, from personal testimony, of the high morale, fine spirit and great discipline of our valiant soldiers. Their stock is high, and their splendid achievements are a source of encouragement to others. Let them be assured, that we follow their movements and heroic efforts with pride and affection, and that their homes and families are our valued trust.

4. Your Excellency has been pleased to refer to our contributions in diverse spheres, direct and indirect, in man, money and material. To us, the contributions already made and whatever more we can offer, are a labour of love in discharge of our sacred obligations to the Crown, which we are determined to fulfil. Moreover, we are inspired by the fact that we are fighting for a great cause, and a righteous cause, the ordered progress of humanity and sanctity of treaties and covenants.

5. Your Excellency, I have felt and declared from the very commencement of the war, that it is our war no less than that of Great Britain, and that it demands of the best elements in India to stand together for the honour and integrity of their motherland. My forecast has come true. The war has reached India; and apart from other considerations, today *India* calls; and God willing, the Indian Princes will not fail to respond, and will defend their motherland according to their best traditions. At the same time, let us hope that circumstances may make it possible even now, for the great leaders in the country to bury the hatchet, at any rate for the duration of the war, and to declare that every inch of India's sacred land, the person and property of every citizen, and the honour of our ladies shall be defended, to the last, together by all patriotic groups and elements in India.

6. Your Excellency, we are passing through critical times. This is not unexpected in a war like this. But, I am a soldier and an optimist, and I am never dismayed by the varying fortunes of the war. I share fully and confidently Your Excellency's faith in the final victory. In this connection, it is well to remember that most of our difficulties hitherto have been due to the fact, that when we of the British Commonwealth said disarmament, we meant disarmament, and that our godless enemy has scored only a temporary vantage by his treachery in the Pacific and the Pearl Harbour. Our resources, however, along with those of our allies, including the great American Peoples, are immense; they are being husbanded. Our resolve is indomitable, and those in touch with affairs know well that every day gained means better preparation for the final victory.

7. Your Excellency referred in your Address to the question asked by our indomitable Prime Minister "what sort of people do our enemies think we are"? England has shown it; so has Russia. China is doing it. And now it is India's turn and I feel confident, that God willing, the Princes and peoples of India will show our enemies what sort of peoples we are. With these words, Your Excellency, I beg to move the resolution which reads as follows :—

"That the Chamber of Princes reiterates the firm determination of the Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India to continue to render every possible assistance to His Imperial Majesty and his Government for the successful prosecution of war and for the defence of their motherland, until final victory is achieved and the high principles of justice and sacredness of Treaties and Covenants are vindicated."

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I rise to second the resolution which has been moved so eloquently by His Highness the Chancellor.

We are gathered together this morning under the darkening shadow of a grim war spreading over all lands and seas and creeping rapidly nearer to our hearths and homes. Since we met last year, the scourge of war has extended its tentacles and we see today almost a whole world locked in a deadly struggle; with the most terrible weapons Science can devise nations advance on each other, some spurred by their over-weening ambition, others in self-defence and for the preservation of their cherished moral and cultural heritage. Twelve eventful months have rolled by since we assembled in this hall and solemnly affirmed the inflexible determination of the Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India to do all that lies in their power to assist His Majesty the King-Emperor in the successful prosecution of the war. During this momentous period we have suffered many set-backs which would have looked over-whelming but for the great achievements that we have been able to enter on the credit side of our military and political balance-sheet. We should, indeed, be thankful to Divine Providence for the disasters averted, for the privations that we have been spared and for the friends and allies we have gained. Thus in taking stock of the situation, while we are painfully cognizant of the grave reverses we have recently suffered which have brought the war to our very gates, we cannot fail to take note of the not inconsiderable accretion of strength to us in our new Allies; in the inexhaustible resources of the United States of America, in the vast man-power of China and in the steely determination and monumental gallantry of Russia against our common foe which has caused serious cracks in the facade of the enemy's citadel.

India's contribution to the common cause—in which the Indian States have taken a part worthy of their traditions—has been great. Her soldiers have again made history and have caused India to grow inestimably in her moral and military stature. The Indian troops, which are engaged in the task of defending civilization with their life blood, have played a memorable role in this great war; our hearts must go out in deep gratitude and admiration to our sons and brothers who serve in our armed forces on land and on sea, near and far; those who serve for us and endure for us. When India's part in this struggle comes to be assessed, it will be found that she had worthily discharged the great responsibility which the course of events and her unique strategic position impose on her. The Indian States have vied with each other in harnessing all their resources in men, material and money to the Empire's war effort and the spontaneous help that they have been rendering in all directions would amply prove that they have not merely avowed their firm determination to share fully the burden of this struggle but that they would spare no effort to implement their plighted word and to discharge faithfully their sacred obligation to their Motherland.

So far India has been fortunate. At a time when so many Nations have lost their liberty to the Axis powers, here in this country, we have escaped the privations of the war; our children and women have not been ruthlessly bombarded; our nerves have not been frayed and our homes have not been smashed. However, the clouds of war are deepening in our direction. Men, munition and money are needed to keep India clear of the flames of war. The Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India are determined to see that so far as they are concerned, these shall be forthcoming

in the fullest degree. We will show no quarter to the obstructionists who would try to hamper our programme and we shall go ahead with our all-out effort.

Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, we do not under-estimate the stern task and hard times that lie before us, but we have set our eye firmly on the brighter world which lies beyond the struggle in which we are engaged. We know we have to win the war by our sacrifices; we cannot for a moment afford to relax; on the contrary, we must strive to the utmost with relentless zeal. We realize that we must pull our weight together to withstand this most serious threat of all times to the integrity of the Empire which in this world of upheavals is the one and only one stabilizing element and affords the maximum opportunity for free and unfettered development and progress in all directions. Whatever depressing aspects the course of the war may have, we have no misgivings about the ultimate end. I have no doubt whatever that the vast resources of the British Empire and her mighty Allies will enable us to achieve the final victory. I also firmly believe that faith and determination, particularly when they stand on an unshakeable foundation of conviction in the righteousness of one's cause, are mighty and unalienable allies, allies that cannot be smitten by superior military force or internal betrayals, allies that would enable one to undergo the most desperate ordeals with a smiling face and thereby to turn the serious disasters into glorious victories. We again solemnly declare that we shall strive vigorously to discharge our sacred obligations to share the burden in furtherance of a common cause and so by our united effort to force our way to the day when with our great Allies, we would march on to ultimate and final victory.

With these words I lend my fullest support to the resolution which has been placed before Your Highnesses by His Highness the Chancellor.

**His Highness the Nawab of Rampur:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: It gives me great pleasure to support the resolution moved by His Highness the Chancellor. The fortunes of war may fluctuate, but what remains fixed and constant is the supreme purpose for which His Imperial Majesty and his Government declared, and now conduct, War against the Axis Powers. That purpose is the destruction of the forces of evil and of the philosophy that might is right; that purpose is the defence of "the high principles"—as the resolution puts it—"of justice and sacredness of Treaties and Covenants". To support such a purpose, and to strive for its attainment, is a privilege as well as a duty, and it is a natural consequence of the loyalty which I am proud to say distinguishes our Order that we should value that privilege and discharge that duty with all the resources—moral and material—at our disposal.

Your Highnesses, the present is a time of crisis, but I know that every one of you will share my complete confidence that the future is bright with promise. Through trial and tribulation we shall march forward to triumphant victory. Victory that is dearly bought is always invested with a greater value than the easy subjugation of one's foes. When peace returns, and when the victorious powers apply themselves to the task of evolving order out of chaos, the memory of how narrowly defeat was avoided, and how success was achieved, will be an important factor in post-war reconstruction. The Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India are playing a vital role in averting defeat and ensuring victory and we shall continue to do so, in loyal conformity with our allegiance to His Imperial Majesty, in defence of our Motherland and for the advancement of the happiness



and prosperity of our peoples. We shall continue to give, and give willingly and enthusiastically, of our resources and we shall ask for no more in return than that same justice which is the chief among the principles for which Britain and her Allies are fighting.

Your Highnesses, it gives me great pleasure to support the resolution.

**His Highness the Raja of Mandi:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I rise to lend my whole-hearted and unqualified support to this Resolution.

When we met last year the impending threat to peace in the Far East had been visualised by most of the speakers and it is indeed most unfortunate that those visions have now come true. Japan could not resist the temptation of throwing in her lot with the forces of aggression and she surreptitiously and without any cause of provocation attacked peaceful citizens of the United States of America and thus belied the name of the Pacific. With the advent of Japan coming into struggle danger to our Motherland has become great and it is the duty of every true son of India to do his best in fighting stubbornly this new menace.

Sir, when the history of this war comes to be written, the acts of valour of the soldier sons of India, whether on the battle fields of Libya or on the battle fields of Ethiopia, or in Iraq, Persia, Hongkong, Malaya and Singapore and now in Burma, once a part of this great country, will be such as would not only stir the hearts of the present generation but also of the generations yet unborn. These are the glorious deeds of our soldiers on the battle field. We who are, what I may say, in the home front have equally important duties to perform. We must not only continue to intensify further our war efforts by providing necessary material and amenities to our troops; but we have also another duty to perform. The safety of those who have staked their lives for the cause of freedom of mankind would be seriously jeopardised if we were to allow any deterioration in the morale of the people in the country. Pacifism, light-heartedness and panic are real enemies in the present day total wars and need stern handling. I would, therefore, appeal that when we talk of intensification of our war effort we must not overlook the real enemies of the home front.

War clouds are almost hanging over us and it is high time that we all realised the gravity of the situation and did all that lay in our power to protect our Motherland from impending invasion and aggression. In discharging this duty and responsibility, I am sure, the Princes and the people of the Indian States will continue to play a part worthy of their traditions and loyalty to His Majesty the King-Emperor, till the attainment, with the grace of the Almighty, of that final and glorious victory of which I have not had the slightest doubt even in the darkest days of the war, and of which I am just as, if not more, optimistic even now when real and actual danger threatens our motherland. And similarly after the attainment of that great victory, I have no doubt whatsoever that we shall contribute our mite towards the attainment of lasting peace and prosperity for this beloved country of ours and the world in general.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I have much pleasure in supporting the Resolution that has just been moved by His Highness the Chancellor with his usual ability and eloquence. My desire in venturing to address this august House for the first time on this occasion and on such an important Resolution arises not from any consciousness of my fitness or of any weighty experience on my part, but from a sincere desire to make my contribution, however small, to a cause which vitally affects our welfare and the welfare of our country, nay, of the whole world.

Your Excellency, it is hardly necessary for me to point out that the crisis which faces the world today is of an unprecedented character. Our ancient land with its heritage of many sided civilisation and culture is in such a peril that it is the bounden duty of everyone who calls himself a worthy son of Mother India, without distinction of privilege or power, religion or creed, to respond to the call of duty and to contribute his utmost to avert the danger. In the face of such grave danger, party issues and sectional interests should be stilled. It is only if everyone of us is inspired with unflinching resolution that we can hope to achieve success against a strong, skilful and unscrupulous enemy. What is needed is "spiritual mobilisation" on the part of every one of us, to quote that Great Soldier Statesman, Generalissimo Chiang-kai-Shek, who with his spouse recently honoured our country with a visit. To my mind the secret of the resistance which China has been putting up against Japan for so many years lies in these two words of the Generalissimo. It is common knowledge that all political parties in China have closed their ranks, and every man, woman and child has resolved to crush the enemy, and to drive him out of her soil. It is because of this that China has been able, although inadequately armed, to hold her own against Japan. China has not been won because the spirit of China is unconquerable.

China should be an example and inspiration to us. That country shows what can be done against modern armaments by a resolute and patriotic people.

Your Excellency and my brother Princes, I may be permitted to refer to the fact that in this grave emergency the interests of India and Great Britain are identical. The victory of the Axis Powers will assuredly destroy all our aspirations and prospects of moral and material progress for at least a century and would inflict untold hardship on our people who will literally become the slaves of the Fascists.

This is the time for action and not for talk and I am glad to say that the Indian Princes and Indian States have nobly discharged their share of the common endeavour against the common enemy, and this share is fully worthy of their ancient traditions and historic loyalty to the Crown. But much greater sacrifice and much more sweat and toil will be needed before the tide can be turned. Our valiant young men have in thousands come forward ready to make the supreme sacrifice in the cause of humanity and civilisation. Let it not be said that their sacrifice has been in vain for want of effort on our part.

Your Excellency, the cause for which the Allies are fighting is that of justice and righteousness, and however long and hard the way ultimate victory is secure. We the Princes and people of the States have contributed our main and might to the cause and we assure you that we shall go on doing so until the final victory is won.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** Is it Your Highnesses' pleasure that this Resolution be adopted?

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** I understand from His Highness the Chancellor that we have come to the end of the business fixed for today.

**His Highness the Chancellor:** Your Excellency, that ends the business for the day except the photograph.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** We will now proceed to be photographed.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND DAY.

*17th March 1942.*

The Chamber assembled at the Princes' Chamber, Council House at 11 A. M., on Tuesday, the 17th March, 1942. His Excellency the Crown Representative presided.

The following Ruling Princes and Chiefs were present :—

### Central India States.

His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Junior Branch). His Highness the Maharaja of Dhar. His Highness the Nawab of Jaora.		The Raja of Nagod. His Highness the Maharaja of Panna. The Raja of Sarila.
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### Deccan States.

The Raja of Jamkhandi.		The Raja of Kurundwad (Junior). His Highness the Raja of Sangli.
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### Eastern States.

The Raja of Bamra. His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar. The Raja of Daspalla. The Raja of Dhenkanal. The Maharaja of Kalahandi.		The Maharaja of Patna. The Raja of Seraikela. The Maharaja of Sonepur. His Highness the Maharaja of Tripura.
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### Gujarat States.

The Raja of Chhota-Udepur. The Raja of Jawhar.		The Nawab of Sachin.
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### Gwalior Agency.

His Highness the Nawab of Rampur.

### Punjab States.

His Highness the Raja of Faridkot. The Raja of Jubbal. His Highness the Raja of Mandi. His Highness the Maharaja of Patlia.		His Highness the Maharaja of Nabha. His Highness the Maharaja of Sirmur. His Highness the Maharaja of Tehri-Garhwal.
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### Rajputana States.

His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar. His Highness the Maharaja of Bharatpur. His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner. His Highness the Maharaja Raja of Bundi.		His Highness the Maharawal of Dunga- garpur. His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur. His Highness the Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar. His Highness the Maharaja of Kotah.
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### Western India States.

His Highness the Maharaja of Bhavnagar. His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar. The Thakore Saheb of Palitana.		His Highness the Maharaja Rana Saheb of Porbandar. The Chief of Wadia. His Highness the Maharana Raj Saheb of Wankaner.
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His Excellency the Crown Representative took the Chair and called upon His Highness the Chancellor to speak

### Agendum No. 5.

*Resolution regarding extension of time for appeals, etc., by the Ruler or the Government of the States in cases where limitation expires during the continuation of the war.*

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: The resolution which I now rise to move speaks for itself. There are various cases in which limitation is prescribed within which appeals, reviews, revisions or representations, on behalf of a Ruler or a State, have to be made to the Crown, or the Secretary of State for India, or the Crown Representative. Should such period of limitation expire, during the continuance of the war, the State concerned is constrained to make a representation in the duration of the war. This must place great strain on the time and labour of the Ruler, the Government and the officers of the State concerned, and would also involve similar strain on the Political Department and the departments concerned of the Government of India. It is obvious that at this critical period, the time necessary for the preparation of such cases, could be employed more usefully on emergent questions connected with war effort. At the same time it would not be fair to prejudice the legitimate rights of a State merely because of its pre-occupations with war effort which make it difficult for it to lend such cases the consideration demanded by them. Moreover, there may be some urgent cases, connected with war effort, civil defence or otherwise which may need to be taken up immediately. The resolution is so worded that it provides for the saving of limitation, in the former type of cases if notice is given in time, and it does not bar the emergent cases being taken up forthwith if so desired.

The resolution is intended as a corollary to the war effort of the States. I trust that it will receive the unanimous support of this Chamber, and the approval of Your Excellency. I now move the Resolution which reads as follows:—

“Resolved that the Chamber of Princes recommends to His Excellency the Crown Representative that in cases in which the period of limitation prescribed for appeal, review, revision or representation, etc., to the Crown, or the Secretary of State for India, or the Crown Representative or the Crown Department, expires during the continuance of the present war, and notice is given within time by the State concerned, that it is proposed to postpone further action in the matter until the end of the war, the prescribed period of limitation shall be deemed to have been extended up to a period of one year after the conclusion of the war.”

**His Highness the Nawab of Rampur:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; I second the resolution.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** Is it Your Highnesses' desire that this resolution be adopted?

The resolution was carried unanimously.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** I see no difficulty in according the accommodation which is suggested in the resolution. I have had the matter looked into, but I have little doubt that we can accept the resolution in the words in which it is urged.

**Agendum No. 6.**

*Statement by His Highness the Chancellor reviewing the work performed by the Chamber of Princes during the last year.*

**His Highness the Jam Sahab of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I now rise to present a review of the last year's work.

2. The year under report witnessed ceaseless activity in respect of war effort and regarding various Committees which met in the course of the year. The Committee of Ministers functioned, in the first portion of the year, under the distinguished Chairmanship of Rt. Hon'ble the late Sir Akbar Hydari, whose sad demise is an irreparable loss to India and the States. He was a farsighted statesman and a distinguished administrator and with a rare culture and patriotism and a faith which never faltered. The Conference of Rulers and representatives of States which preceded this Chamber Session decided to record its sense of profound grief over his sad demise, and decided to convey its sympathies to his family. The late Sir Akbar was succeeded in the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers by our experienced and trusted friend Sir V. T. Krishnamachari. He has worthily maintained the high traditions of this Committee, and I am happy to learn that the new Committee of Ministers, set up after the recent elections has elected Sir V. T. Krishnamachari as its Chairman and Sir Manubhai Mehta, our Veteran Minister, as its Vice-Chairman. The Committee of Ministers is now an integral part of the machinery of the Chamber of Princes; and the Chamber and its machinery represent big and small States of India. Ten special committees met this year to deal with various specific questions. Their valuable reports have been made available to the States in the majority of cases, and are receiving active consideration in others.

3. Much solid work was done in the course of the year in coordinating and, where needed, stimulating war effort of the States. Moreover, various special difficulties of States in respect of their war effort were represented personally by me, on more than one occasion, to Your Excellency and to the Political Adviser. I take this opportunity of acknowledging with gratitude the prompt and sympathetic consideration lent to many of these points urged by me on behalf of the States.

4. The year under review recorded many useful activities in the sphere of administrative reforms and beneficent activities in the States. In most cases, Administration Reports of States are published or are under consideration. The following figures worked out on the basis of authentic information received from the States in reply to my circulars speak for themselves, and are very gratifying indeed:—

The laws of the States, that are members of this Chamber, have been modelled generally on the lines of British Indian Laws. The criminal, Civil and Procedural Law enforced in the States is almost identical with that obtaining in British India. 91 per cent. of the population of States in this Chamber has already got the benefit of High Courts, in 97 per cent. of these, the Rulers exercise only the prerogative of mercy in judicial matters. Judicial Officials generally possess sufficient legal qualifications or judicial experience, and in many cases minimum qualifications have been prescribed for the appointment of judicial officers. In certain groups, the relatively smaller States have been examining or have adopted suitable schemes for common judges of the High Court. The general incidence of taxation in the States has also been compared with, and found lower than, that of the adjoining British Indian provinces. Primary education is free

almost throughout the territories of the States. In some cases, even higher education is paid for by the State. Many States maintain colleges for post-matric instruction for which stipends are liberally provided for the poor students. Modern dispensaries exist in every Chamber State equipped according to the varying needs and conditions of the States. Some of them compare favourably with the best available medical aid in British India. Many States have extensive irrigation works canals, tanks, bunds and big dams constructed at State expense for the benefit of their subjects. Assistance given by the States in distress or famine, as Your Excellency is aware, has been worthy of their highest traditions. Agricultural and industrial organisation, on modern lines, has been a prominent feature of the recent policy of many States. Preliminary data of the potential and available resources, industrial and mineral and otherwise, with a view to the requirements of war supplies and war industries, has recently been collected by my Secretariat which speaks of itself and is full of promise. Copies of this data are being furnished to the Defence and Supply Departments at their request with the permission of the States concerned. 90.5 per cent. of the population of our States possess local bodies with non-official majorities. States with 72 per cent. of the population have got Legislative Assemblies, out of which 35.3 per cent. have majority of elected members and 5 per cent. have equality of elected and nominated members of the Assembly. States representing more than half of our total population have recently reviewed and enlarged the scope of association of their subjects with their administrations. The year under report has been particularly conspicuous for the publication of up-to-date Administration Reports of most of the States, while it is receiving attention of others. My Secretariat also published this month the first issue of the Indian States Information, which will give, every month, a consolidated statement of the important and typical news of the war effort and beneficent activities of States. Arrangements have also been made this year, for regular examination of legislative measures coming up before the Central or Provincial Legislatures so that such Acts or Bills as may affect or interest the States may be brought to their notice.

5. Your Excellency, we do not claim perfection for all the States administrations; at the same time, the aforesaid statement of facts, based on authentic information will show to all fair-minded persons that the Indian States are not anachronisms in the conception of a progressive State, and that our administrations are based on a rule of law associated with growing beneficent activities.

6. The following questions were examined and taken up in the course of the year. Steady progress was made in respect of most of them:--

- (a) Problems relating to war effort, civil defence, internal security and the economic consequences of the War.
- (b) Resolution regarding appointment of Courts of Arbitration.
- (c) Extra-territorial rights of the Crown within the territories of States.
- (d) Application *pro pris vigore* to Indian States of laws passed by the Indian Legislature.
- (e) Grant of prospecting licenses and mining leases in Indian States.
- (f) Clear-the-line telegrams.
- (g) Validity of legal evidence in settlement of claims of heirs of deceased persons in Indian States in respect of deposits in post offices.

- (h) Apportionment of shares of Indian States out of the surcharge on petrol.
- (i) Rights of Railway administrations to quarry stone in railway lands in Indian States.
- (j) Expenditure in the use of British Indian or State troops.
- (k) British Indian income-tax law so far as it affects the States.
- (l) Certain questions relating to the Indian Arms Act and the Rules made thereunder.
- (m) Questions relating to the Indian States Forces.
- (n) The Crown Representative's Police Force Law.
- (o) Air Navigation in Indian States.
- (p) Alterations made in the Indian Railways Act.
- (q) Resolution on the appointment of Commissions of Enquiry.

The latest position reached in respect of these items has been circulated to the States and need not be detailed here today.

7. Your Excellency, we do not wish to trouble you in the duration of the war with any avoidable and controversial matters. At the same time, it is my duty to invoke Your Excellency's good offices to resolve the few outstanding point of doubt or difficulty relating to the application of British Indian Income-tax law to the Rulers and subjects of Indian States, and certain questions relating to the Resolutions on Courts of Arbitration. We feel confident that by a sympathetic consideration of these questions Your Excellency will assist in their early and satisfactory settlement.

8. In addition to the aforesaid record of work accomplished during the year, every possible advice and assistance was given, and all available information supplied to many States, when invited, on diverse subjects including in particular problems relating to war effort, amenities for troops, improvement of States Forces, questions relating to the war supply and the development of war industries, and in matters relating to civil defence and internal security.

9. This concludes the review of the more important work accomplished this year. The results achieved have been due to a large measure to the most helpful consideration which it had been my privilege to receive, throughout the year, from Your Excellency as our President, and to the generous support which was extended to me by my colleagues of the Standing Committee. In the beginning of the year under review the Hon'ble Sir Francis Wylie was the Political Adviser to whom I was beholden for much valuable help. He was succeeded by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Craik who has already earned our confidence and whose wide administrative experience and far-sighted sympathy are most helpful at this crucial juncture. I wish also to record on my behalf and that of this Chamber, our grateful appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered throughout the year by Sir Kenneth Fitze as the Secretary of this Chamber. I am also obliged to his Deputy Mr. J. H. Thompson and the Political Department for their helpful co-operation. I wish also to record my appreciation of the valuable assistance received throughout the year from the Chancellor's Secretariat under the able and trusted guidance of Mir Maqbool Mahmood.

*Vote of thanks to His Highness the Chancellor.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency, Your Highness: One again it is my privilege to propose a hearty vote of thanks to His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, our popular Chancellor. Even in normal times the work of the Chancellor is heavy and exacting. In these days when events of great consequence are moving with such kaleidoscopic rapidity and the position of India and the States is affected at every turn, the duties of Chancellorship are all the more onerous and demand exceptional qualities of patience, tact and the ability to foresee and cope with the consequences of what is taking place around us—in short the highest gifts of statesmanship. His Highness our present Chancellor has displayed these qualities in a remarkable degree.

I think we can justly say that in these critical times the States are fortunate in that His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb has been re-elected as our Chancellor. He has earned the confidence of his brother Princes, and by what he has been able to achieve, no less than by the qualities he has shown, he has established an undoubted claim to our deep gratitude.

May I, before resuming my seat, say with what pleasure we heard Your Excellency's tribute in your speech yesterday to His Highness and his work as our Chancellor—a tribute that is so well deserved; and may I further take this opportunity of tendering my most grateful thanks for the extremely kind words which Your Excellency was pleased to use in regard to myself?

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I have much pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to His Highness the Chancellor moved by His Highness the Maharaja Sahib of Bikaner and in associating myself whole-heartedly with the befitting tribute paid by him to our popular Chancellor for contributing another year of great service to the Princely Order, a year which has been a very eventful one and has entailed heavy stress and strain. The normal duties and responsibilities that devolve on the accredited spokesman of the Princely India are very onerous and exacting; during the troublous times in which we are moving, the burden of the office of Chancellor has become much heavier. However, His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar has amply proved himself equal to the task committed to his charge and has shouldered the responsibilities of his office with conspicuous success. He has been a vigilant custodian of our rights and interests and the important issues, affecting the common interests of the Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India that he has handled, bear the imprint of his seasoned leadership, his initiative, his great tact and wisdom. We all are aware of his deep solicitude for the welfare of our Order and he has always readily and cheerfully responded to very heavy calls on his attention, time and energies even in disregard of considerations of health. By re-electing His Highness as Chancellor for a second term, the members of the Standing Committee have reaffirmed their implicit confidence and trust in His Highness and have paid a glowing tribute to his great industry and success as Chancellor. I feel I am voicing the sentiments of my brother Princes when I say that we owe His Highness a deep debt of gratitude for his selfless and invaluable services to our Order and that we fully depend upon him to continue to guide us through the difficult years that lie before us.

With these two words I second the vote of thanks moved by His Highness of Bikaner.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Panna:** I lend my wholehearted support to the Resolution moved by His Highness of Bikaner and seconded by His Highness of Patiala in thanking His Highness the Chancellor for the



invaluable work he has put in during the last year. The fact that he continues to enjoy our confidence and respect is demonstrated by his being re-elected as Chancellor by an over-whelming majority.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** Is it Your Highnesses' desire that this Resolution be adopted?

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I am most grateful to Your Excellency for the generous terms in which you were pleased to refer to me and to our distinguished Pro-Chancellor in your Address to the Chamber yesterday. The most encouraging and kind words now expressed by my brother Princes are another index of their confidence and consideration and support which has been of the greatest value to me throughout my tenure of office.

Your Excellency and Your Highnesses are aware that personally I would have been happy to be relieved of the duties of Chancellorship at this juncture. But when the call came in such rich measure from my brother Princes it left no choice but to obey that mandate and to offer my humble service for whatever they are worth for the important and critical period awaiting us.

I can assure Your Highnesses that I shall continue to render my humble best for the solidarity of our Order and the service of the States for the ensuing term.

#### Agendum No. 7.

*Resolution on the Political situation in India so far as it affects the States.*

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: The resolution which I now rise to move reads as follows:—

- “(a) that this Chamber welcomes the Announcement made in the House of Commons on the 11th March 1942, by the Prime Minister and the forthcoming visit to India of the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons, and expresses the hope that it may help to unite India to intensify further her war effort and to strengthen measures for the defence of the motherland.
- (b) that this Chamber has repeatedly made it clear that any scheme to be acceptable to the States must effectively protect their rights arising from Treaties, Engagements and Sanads or otherwise and ensure the future existence, sovereignty and autonomy of the States thereunder guaranteed, and leave them complete freedom duly to discharge their obligations to the Crown and to their subjects; it therefore notes with particular satisfaction the reference in the Announcement of the Prime Minister to the fulfilment of the Treaty obligations to the Indian States.
- (c) that this Chamber authorises its representatives to carry on discussions and negotiations for the constitutional advance of India with due regard to the successful prosecution of war and the interests of States, and subject to final confirmation by the Chamber and without prejudice to the right of Individual States to be consulted in respect of any proposals affecting their treaty or other inherent rights.”

Your Excellency will observe that in drafting this resolution we have taken care, in response to the appeal of the Prime Minister, to avoid any words which may add to the burden assumed by the Lord Privy Seal or lessen the prospect of a good result.

2. The resolution which I have the honour to move consists of three parts. I shall try to elucidate briefly what is implied in each part of the resolution.

3. The first part welcomes the announcement made in the House of Commons on the 11th March 1942, by the Prime Minister, and the forthcoming visit to India of the representative of His Majesty's Government. We do so in the hope that it may help to unite India to intensify further her war effort and to strengthen measures for the defence of the Motherland. Ever since the war began, the Indian Princes have spared no efforts in mobilising their resources for the defence of the motherland and the successful prosecution of the war. We have, however, not been unmindful of the fact that, in this total war, India as much as other Allied countries must put in its total effort so that a speedy and final victory may be achieved. We realise that such a total effort can come through the whole-hearted collaboration of all the main elements that go to make the national life of this great subcontinent. There is no getting away from the fact that the enemy is dangerously nearing the approaches to India. If the integrity of this country is to be fully safeguarded, and if it is to play its great part in the future reconstruction of a better and more civilised world, it is essential that all parties should sink their differences and get together to organise all available resources of India for its defence.

4. The Indian Princes have always stood for a common national front, and are ever willing to make their contribution towards this end. As such, we welcome the announcement of the Prime Minister and the forthcoming visit of the distinguished representative of His Majesty's Government, as a most earnest attempt by His Majesty's Government, in continuation of Your Excellency's strenuous efforts, to create circumstances wherein a united India may stand together in defence of the Motherland. Moreover, we welcome it as it affords another opportunity for the leaders of the main elements in this country to vindicate the honour of India and to strengthen the bulwark of her defences.

5. The second part of the resolution states the fact that this Chamber has repeatedly made its attitude clear with regard to any future scheme of constitution for India as a whole; it further records its particular satisfaction at the reference in the announcement of the Prime Minister to the fulfilment of the Treaty obligations to the Indian States.

6. Your Excellency, the Indian Princes have on several occasions publicly associated themselves with the general desire to secure for India the fullest freedom and the highest status under the aegis of the British Crown. We are always willing to offer our co-operation and to make our contribution to any genuine effort that may be made to achieve this end. We have, however, repeatedly made it clear, and must emphasise again today, that any scheme involving constitutional changes in India to be acceptable to the Indian States must effectively protect their rights arising from Treaties, Engagements and Sanads or otherwise, and ensure the future existence, sovereignty and autonomy of the States thereunder guaranteed, and leave them complete freedom duly to discharge their obligations to the Crown and to their subjects.

This declaration is the counter-part of the announcement made on behalf of His Majesty's Government by Your Excellency on the 8th August 1940, and in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for India,

who in elucidating that declaration promised to "leave it to a body representative of the principal elements in India's national life—including the Indian States—to devise the frame-work of the new constitution on the basis of free and friendly agreement subject to the due fulfilment of the Treaty and other solemn obligations resting on His Majesty's Government". No fair-minded person or party which stands for, and is fighting for, the vindication of the sanctity of treaties and covenants can blame us for this attitude. It is, therefore, that we note with particular satisfaction the reference in the announcement of the Prime Minister to the fulfilment of the Treaty obligations to the Indian States.

7. Your Excellency, we of the Indian States do not wish to say anything which may raise controversies, or prejudice the mission of the representative of His Majesty's Government. At the same time, we feel that it would help in creating the right atmosphere, wherein the Princes and peoples of India may be able to work together in a common undertaking for the defence of their Motherland, if we made it clear that the Indian Princes are not averse to the ordered progress of India; on the other hand, they are publicly associated with the desire to secure for India the fullest freedom and the highest status under the aegis of the British Crown. Our position in the matter has been clearly stated in the resolutions adopted by this Chamber. Once again, speaking from this Chamber, in the name of the Princes of India, I emphatically repudiate the assumption in certain quarters that the Princes stand in the way of the constitutional advance of India, and the attainment by her of Dominion Status under the aegis of His Imperial Majesty, in full equality with Great Britain and other Dominions under a constitution to be framed by Indians by agreement among themselves, and acceptable to the main elements in the national life of India. It is therefore that in the third part of this resolution we have specifically authorised our representatives, to carry on discussions and negotiations for *the constitutional advance of India*, with due regard to the successful prosecution of the war and the interests of the States.

8. The India of the future on which we have set our gaze and in which patriotic Indians—of different classes, parties and interests—as well as others can cheerfully offer their best in the service of the motherland and in its defence against its enemies, must inspire in them a sense of security, self-respect and pride, a spirit of common citizenship and of comradeship-in-arms, essential as much for defeating the enemy today, as for the working of any stable constitution in the future. For the achievement of this ideal, if it be necessary, theories of constitutional purism must yield to the peculiar needs of the human element in India, and to the exigency of the grave situation that faces us.

9. The third part of the resolution declares the willingness of the Princes to meet the representative of His Majesty's Government and to carry on negotiations. It further declares that, though the Chamber has full confidence in its representatives to carry on the delicate negotiations, it would be without prejudice to final confirmation by the Chamber and the right of the individual States to be consulted in respect of any proposals affecting the Treaty and other inherent rights.

10. Your Excellency, patriotism is not the monopoly of any single party or organisation, and we feel confident that the Indian Princes shall not be found wanting in any reasonable contribution which they may be called upon to make, for the discharge of their obligations to the Crown and towards the ordered progress of their States and their motherland. Insinuations have been made in certain quarters that the Indian Princes are obstacles in the path of the ordered progress of India and the States,

and that we have been conspiring with the British Government against the political emancipation of our motherland. These are baseless insinuations which we emphatically repudiate. Our traditions and actions belie these charges; and we share the general desire of the constitutional advancement of our country, and the imminent need at this crucial juncture to rally all the forces of India's national life to guard their Motherland against the menace of the invader.

11. Your Excellency, we note in the Prime Minister's declaration of the 11th March that the War Cabinet have agreed unitedly to conclusions for present and future action, which are meant to apply to India *as a whole*. We shall lend to these proposals the consideration to which they are richly entitled.

12. Your Excellency, the danger knocking at our doors calls for the highest sacrifice and patriotism from the leaders of all the main elements in the national life of India. Drift or complacency would now be dangerous. The short gap between the present constitutional status of India and the goal set before them by the various parties and leaders in India may deserve and call for sacrifice, but the preservation of the best that already exists within our reach in the culture and civilisation of our country, and the need for defending every inch of India's sacred land are no less a sacred duty. I would, therefore, make an earnest appeal to all the great leaders of India at this critical juncture. The differences that divide India today are nothing as compared to the grave dangers ahead wherein we all sink or swim together. Shall not the great gifts of Indian leaders be harnessed to the constructive work of the nation against the common enemy? Let us put our shoulders to the wheel to serve and save India today, without prejudice to the right of pressing our respective points of view in the ultimate constitution which we shall ourselves frame on the basis of a free India. I have read some history. Nations all over the world often do wrong. They fall out; they take unwise steps. Nevertheless in the long run they come back to the ways of reason, moderation and justice. This is true of the Britisher, as much as of the Indian. It applies to the Hindu no less than to the Muslim. Difficulties in human affairs more often make than break history. It seems to me that the present is one of the rare occasions which may mark the beginning of a new era. Let us take it now and the victory is ours. Let us without higgling over our relative shares in the interim Government, vie with each other in pooling whatever we can, and postponing whatever is irreconcilable, at this critical juncture when duty calls to brazen walls. In this great tank, all that we of the Indian States can contribute will be ungrudgingly given, so that India may pull its full weight in the defence of the motherland and for the ordered progress of humanity.

Your Excellency, I have great pleasure in moving the resolutions which stands in my name.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; In rising to second this Resolution I join in the sincere wish that the Lord Privy Seal's mission may prove successful and result in the increased war effort of India and in a constitution being framed which, whilst being acceptable to the main elements in the national life of India, will place this country on a footing of equality with Great Britain and the Dominions.

As the Resolution now before the Chamber has been discussed and approved by the Princes at their Informal Meeting and after the eloquent speech of His Highness the Chancellor, it is unnecessary for me to speak

at any great length. But there are just a few points which need to be emphasized and some which, I trust it will be agreed, can bear repetition.

Eager as the Princes and States of India always are to be of service to their beloved King-Emperor and to the Empire and to India—of which they can rightly claim to be no less loyal and patriotic sons—nothing really does greater injustice to the Princes or the Indian States than the insinuation in certain quarters that they stand in the way of the constitutional advance of our country. Ample proof of the Princes' readiness to further the cause of their common Motherland, even by making reasonable sacrifices, is forthcoming. As an instance, may I, in all modesty, first refer to my own endeavour to help to secure for India her due? This was as long ago as in 1917 during the last War when I had the honour of representing the Indian Princes at the Imperial War Cabinet and Conference in London. And I venture to assert, again with all modesty and without fear of contradiction, that no British Indian could have urged in stronger or less unhesitating terms the grant of a generous measure of constitutional reform for India. This can be seen from a Note which after discussions in the Imperial War Cabinet and Conference, and in amplification thereof, I sent to Sir Austen Chamberlain, then Secretary of State for India, for the favourable consideration of His Majesty's Government, and which came to be known as my "Rome Note"—so called because I wrote it on the journey and despatched it from Rome on my way back from England to India. Anyone so desiring will find important extracts from that Note reproduced in a Biography of myself written by Mr. K. M. Panikkar. Several others of my brother Princes have been no less active champions of constitutional advance in India and, along with me, have urged the grant of Dominion Status under the aegis of the British Crown. Above all, it should not be lost sight of that at the Round Table Conference the Princes of India of their own accord not only offered their co-operation but also expressed their willingness to sacrifice some part of their sovereignty in order that the foundation stone may be laid of a United India.

I cannot do better than to conclude my reference to this point by quoting relevant extracts from a significant speech which that great and revered leader of British Indian public opinion, Mahatma Gandhi, himself made at the Federal Structure Committee of the Round Table Conference on the 17th September 1931, and which in itself is a convincing testimony to the desire of the Princes to bear such sacrifices in order to co-operate with and help British India to attain her destined goal. These are the words of Mahatma Gandhi—

" \* \* \* we have no right, in my humble opinion, to say to the States what they shall do and what they shall not do. Those States have very generously come to our assistance and said that they would federate with us, and perhaps part with some of their rights which they might otherwise have held exclusively. That being so, I could not but endorse the opinion given by Sir Sultan Ahmed, which was perhaps emphasised by Mr. Gavin Jones, that the utmost that we can do is to plead with the States, and show them our own difficulties. At the same time I feel that we have to recognise their special difficulties also. \* \* \* \* \* I feel, and I know, that they have the interests of their ryots at heart. I know that they claim jealously to guard their interests \* \* \* \* \* The Princes, be it said to their credit, when they declared themselves frankly and courageously in favour of federation, claimed also to be of the

same blood with us—claimed to be our own kith and kin. How could they do otherwise? There is no difference between them and us except that we are common people and they are—God has made them—noblemen, Princes. I wish them well; I wish them all prosperity; and I also pray that their prosperity and their welfare may be utilised for the advancement of their own dear people, their own subjects. Beyond this I will not go; I cannot go. I can only make an appeal to them. It is open to them, as we know, either to come into the Federation or not to come into it. It is up to us to make it easy for them to come into the Federation. It is up to them to make it easy for us to welcome them with open arms. Without that spirit of give-and-take, I know that we shall not be able to come to any definite scheme of federation; or, if we do, we shall ultimately quarrel and break up. \* \* \* \* \*

I have no desire to bring in today any controversial matter. Suffice it, therefore, to say that—strong supporter as I was of the Scheme of Federation as it was first discussed at the Round Table Conference, and apart from whatever objections certain political parties in India may have entertained to the Scheme as it was finally evolved—it differed in certain important aspects from what the Princes had expressed their readiness to agree to; and the Scheme fell through, so far as the States were concerned, as in our opinion it did not afford adequate and effective protection to the States in regard to their sovereignty, internal autonomy and their rights arising out of Treaties. Sanads and Engagements and the unhampered freedom to develop their resources and to improve the economic condition of their subjects and, what to the Princes is also of especial importance, the due discharge of their own duties and obligations to the Crown.

These considerations are of equally paramount importance to the Indian States today. And I need hardly labour the further point that the benefits accruing from constitutional advance to British India should not be at the expense or to the detriment of the Indian States which, although they may be a minority in a certain sense, are a very vital part of the body politic of India; and in all such benefits it is not unreasonable to assert that the Indian States should have their full share.

Sir, it needs to be emphasised that the Princes do not stand, and have never stood, in the way of India attaining her legitimate political aspirations. In fact, it is but the bare truth to state that the Princes have in the past been, and are also now, out to help India and the Empire in every manner possible; and it is in this spirit of co-operation and helpfulness that we welcome the endeavours of His Majesty's Government and of Your Excellency to remove the existing difficulties. And we would express the earnest hope that from these efforts there may emerge a solution satisfactory to all concerned which would enable them to work together in peace and harmony for the good of India and the Empire, without the domination or subordination of one unit or community by another.

In conclusion I can confidently assert that the States—subject to essential and effective safeguards for the protection of their sovereignty and for ensuring their future well-being and existence—will be prepared to make on this occasion, too, their fullest contribution—a contribution which it is earnestly to be hoped will also be made in the interests of our Motherland and of the Empire by the other important parties in India.

**His Highness the Raja of Sangli:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: It is my proud privilege to be able to support the resolution moved by

His Highness the Chancellor and seconded by His Highness the Pro-Chancellor to welcome the announcement of the British Prime Minister regarding the visit of Sir Stafford Cripps to our country so that he may secure the assent of India's leaders to the unanimous conclusions of the British War Cabinet to meet the present situation.

2. I cannot recall any event which may be regarded as of greater significance to the future of our country than the visit of the Lord Privy Seal and the Leader of the House of Commons at this moment. There was perhaps never before in the history of our country a more fateful moment than the present one faced as we are by the dire menace of invasion by the enemy. On what India may do or fail to do at this time depends the fate not only of India but, if I may say so, of all freedom-loving nations in the world, and, therefore, of humanity itself. The need of all the forces of the country being united to guard it from the enemy was never so great as at this moment.

3. Although the States in India, as is indeed recognized by the British Government, may legitimately claim to be making a worthy contribution towards success in this world war and maintaining unimpaired their traditions of loyalty and devotion to His Majesty the King-Emperor and the Commonwealth, India has not been able to reach the maximum war effort of which she is capable. What is tragic in this respect is that even when the peril is so near us, we have not so far been able to find a solution of the difficulties which confront us. For that reason Britain's assistance in a renewed attempt to reach a just solution at this critical hour cannot but make its own appeal.

4. It is true that we are not yet aware of the conclusions of the British Cabinet. All the same there are certain outstanding aspects which cannot but inspire hope and faith. The British Government has devised a just and final solution thereby evincing its earnest resolve to do every thing in its power to meet the situation and to rally all forces pledged to the vindication of freedom to the defence of our motherland. Then, we must remember, Sir Stafford is bringing with him the widest powers of negotiation and the fullest confidence of the British Cabinet. Your Excellency and Your Highnesses, the significance of these factors to the future of India, to the success of the united nations and to the cause of humanity itself can hardly be exaggerated. What will serve to unite the main elements in India will further unite her in still closer bonds to Great Britain; this in its turn will mean the union of the East and the West, indeed of all parts of humanity which put their faith in the preservation of freedom and would consider no sacrifices too great for the emancipation of the world from brute force and violence. Who can deny that there is discernible in all this the finger of Providence—from the beginnings of the British connection with India to its culmination in the union of Britain and India as equal partners in a common brotherhood of nations. The mission of Sir Stafford is thus a great and magnificent undertaking on which Great Britain has embarked.

5. It is a happy omen that the selection of Sir Stafford Cripps is already acclaimed on all sides as in every way worthy of the task Britain has undertaken. What is more, there is unanimity in this country that she could not have chosen a better ambassador for such a mission. Already he has many a great achievement to his credit, and now a still greater one is awaiting him. His is assuredly an enterprise for the success of which the very Angels in heaven will pray. Your Excellency may feel sure that the Princes will not be found lacking in that full measure of co-operation that they owe it to themselves to offer to Sir Stafford Cripps in his stupendous task. Thus do we offer our whole-hearted welcome to the Lord Privy Seal in his visit to our motherland on his noble mission.

6. I may be permitted here to allude to the reference the British Prime Minister made in his announcement to the fulfilment of the treaty obligations of the British Government to the Indian States. It is through the preservation of the rights arising from treaties, engagements and sanads or otherwise that the Princes are enabled to discharge the sacred obligations they owe both to the British Crown and to their own people. That is why the Princes naturally attach so great a value to their rights. It is thus gratifying to them that the Prime Minister should have made a reference to the treaty obligations of the British Government in his announcement.

7. The concluding part of the resolution relates to the appointment of representatives on behalf of the States to carry on negotiations in connection with the mission of Sir Stafford Cripps with due regard to the successful prosecution of the war. As we shall select such Princes and Ministers as command our confidence, we can leave them freedom in their task and await their recommendations. We may, therefore, give our representatives the necessary authority and wish them God speed and success in their effort to bring about a satisfactory solution of the problem that is entrusted to them.

8 With these words I commend the resolution to the acceptance of the House.

**His Highness the Raja of Mandi:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: It is a matter of genuine pleasure to me to associate myself with this resolution welcoming the announcement recently made by the Prime Minister of England on behalf of His Majesty's Government. Sir, at this most critical moment in the history of civilisation it is essential for us to realise—and we do fully realise it—that the political advancement of India, in which we are all naturally intimately interested, being our motherland, can only materialise if the world is made safe for the development of free institutions, everyone doing his very best in the cause of freedom by bringing the greatest of all wars to a speedy and glorious end. It is in this spirit that I welcome the proposal of His Majesty's Government to send their responsible plenipotentiary of outstanding fame and, if I may say so, one of the men of the moment, to India to assist us to solve our complex problems. It may be true, Sir, that the consideration of any radical and far reaching constitutional change requires a peaceful atmosphere, but statesmanship demands that while necessary provisional measures must of necessity be introduced with the least possible delay, the post-war reconstruction should also receive our earnest consideration now so that in spite of our winning the war we may not lose the peace and be faced with another armageddon after a generation or so or even within the century. Our country is playing and will, I have not the slightest doubt, continue to play now and in the future a role worthy of our traditions in the post-war free world, and I am sure, Sir, I am voicing the feelings of all my brother Princes when I say that we shall be proud of playing our modest part in achieving this object. This Chamber, while authorising their representatives to negotiate on behalf of the States, big and small, and to place their view point before the representative of His Majesty's Government has done nothing new, because in the past also we have always had the fullest confidence in our representatives. I have not the least doubt that our experienced and able leaders and representatives will make a contribution towards solving our country's problem which will not be in any way less worthy than that which any leaders of India will be able to make at this important juncture in our country's



history provided we give them the fullest freedom to make the best of the golden opportunity and do not hamper them or hinder them in any manner because we know that whatever they will put forward and press before Sir Stafford Cripps will be as much in their own interests as it will be in the interests of all the Princes and their people. I for one will not have the slightest doubt that what they will be able to achieve for us will be something which we shall be proud of and which we shall I hope have the greatest pleasure to accept when this Chamber is called upon to endorse their recommendations. Sir, there is no gainsaying the fact that any scheme to be of practical value must, as has been repeatedly said by His Majesty's Government, be a constitution framed by Indians by agreement among themselves and acceptable to the main elements in India's national life. I feel certain that as in the case of war effort—and rightly so—the Princes of India with their ancient traditions, will not lag behind in making their full contribution both towards solving the present difficult problems and, after victory is won, towards the fulfilment of the goal which India has set before us of becoming a free and equal partner in the commonwealth of free nations under the aegis of His Imperial Majesty, our beloved King-Emperor.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Junior Branch):** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: The problem of the status and constitutional position of India has been in the forefront ever since the beginning of this war. A great deal of discussion has taken place both in India and in England and a good deal of feeling has been created. When Britain and India are in the midst of the greatest war of all times, it was hardly conducive to the creation of that atmosphere which is necessary for evoking an all-out effort for fighting the enemy. Now when India is face to face with the grim realities of war, when the enemy is knocking at our very door, we could hardly afford this frittering away of the energies of India and its people. It must, therefore, be regarded the highest act of statesmanship on the part of His Imperial Majesty's Government that they have taken the initiative once again to solve this tangle and settle the Indian problem. It is said that occasion brings forth the man and Sir Stafford Cripps is certainly the man for this great task. We, the princes of India, offer him a warm welcome. In the midst of war he comes as a messenger of peace. When aggression and tyranny threaten to destroy the freedom of man and all that humanity has learnt to prize, he comes with the message of hope to the four hundred millions of India. We therefore repeat that we welcome him.

India has to create a solid and united front if she has to defeat the enemy. The various gulfs that yawn and still divide the people of the country have to be bridged and the whole country has to stand up like one man to defend its shores and soil. The messenger of Peace by offering the material for establishment and consolidation of peace to use an appropriate metaphor, to the warring elements in the land will help and ensure the creation of a solid and reinforced and united war front. It is a noble cause and every effort in this direction deserves the fullest support and co-operation of all patriotic elements in the country. The Princes have always stood for India gaining the highest status which any unit in the British Commonwealth of Nations enjoys. The day when India achieves that status will be a great day in the history of India's connection with Great Britain. We, Princes will do nothing to put off that glorious consummation. It is unfortunate that in certain quarters doubts are expressed and the efforts the Princely Order has consistently made in this direction are misunderstood and misconstrued. I want to aver that such entertainment of doubt has been based on misapprehensions which have no foundation in fact, and as a proof positive of this we need

only refer to the hand of brotherly co-operation extended by the Princes at the time of the Round Table Conferences.

While, however, the States and their Rulers have every desire to help and co-operate for the attainment by India of her due place in the British Commonwealth of free Nations, it is but natural that they should likewise have striven to ensure the States their continued enjoyment of that position in the country which must rightfully belong to them. They are an integral part of India and in any future constitution of the country their position as such has to be recognised and maintained. Their relations with the Crown are regulated by the Treaties, Engagements and Sanads which are and must remain inviolate so that they may be able to enjoy and discharge their powers and obligations arising thereunder. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the announcement made by the Prime Minister of Great Britain gives the assurance that the rights and obligations arising out of our relations with the Crown will continue to be respected as they have been in the past. I again emphasize that their wish to safeguard and preserve their precious heritage is a human impulse. It is not, I assure, all, actuated by a desire to raise controversial and contentious points and thus create obstacles in the task undertaken. It is a common task and has to be solved and achieved by all working together and with one mind.

There is no country where parties and factions do not exist. All society is made up of different elements and interests which may not see eye to eye with each other on all problems. India is no exception to this. It is, however, the task of statesmanship to bring them together and arrive at compromises which may be generally acceptable. And in times like the one in which we live today, it is more than ever necessary that all the different elements and interests do make a genuine effort to come together and arrive at a workable solution so that the latent energies of the nation and the inexhaustible resources of this vast country may be fully harnessed to the task of winning this war. Every one will have to make sacrifices and all of us should be prepared for this. Given good-will and co-operation the visit of Sir Stafford Cripps should provide us with the occasion and the inspiration needed to reach a successful solution of the undoubtedly difficult problem. On occasions like this, though little may be said, much is meant; and I want to say this that we the Princes of India will not be found wanting in that good-will and readiness to give and take which are the essentials that bring about a settlement.

I am glad that this Chamber has chosen its representatives and authorised them to carry on discussions and negotiations. I hope and trust that their efforts in common with those of others, equally anxious to see our country progress, will be crowned with success and we may be destined soon to see the day when a United India will face the enemy with all its resources in men and material, with the help of our great Allies, to proceed towards that final victory which we must and will achieve.

Before concluding I would like to add that we Princes are descendants of illustrious predecessors—valiant heroes and brave sons of Bharatbhumi and if we are, as I have no doubt we are, worthy sons of our worthy ancestors we shall not be wanting in those ideals, inspiration and aspirations which made the past history of India and which is essential to write the history of the future of the Motherland. Patriotism, loyalty and sacrifice is not the monopoly of any one nation, community or party, but with us it is more than that, it is our heritage.

Let us therefore rise to the occasion and kindle a lamp which shall ever burn and be never extinguished.

With these words I heartily support the Resolution.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** Is it Your Highnesses' desire that this Resolution be adopted?

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

**His Highness Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency: We desire at the outset to express our gratitude for the courtesy and consideration with which you have presided over our deliberations.

2. We share Your Excellency's satisfaction at the good attendance at this Session of the Chamber. Your Excellency has made a reference in Your Address to the Chamber's coming of age. It is, as your Excellency has observed over 21 years that the Chamber of Princes was inaugurated in the name of His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor, and notwithstanding its obvious limitations, it has justified to a large measure the purpose and the lofty ideals which were set before it. Your Excellency is doubtless aware that at our annual Session in 1930, a resolution was unanimously adopted to the effect that the time had arrived to revise the constitution of the Chamber and to enlarge its powers. We feel confident that the Chamber can depend on Your Excellency's support, as its President and as the custodian of its rights and privileges, to implement that decision now that on your own reckoning the Chamber had come of age.

3. We listened with particular interest to the reference in Your Excellency's Address to the re-election of the Chancellor and the Pro-Chancellor for the ensuing term. The Princes whole-heartedly share Your Excellency's feeling that, it would be regrettable from the point of view of this Chamber and the States in general, if we lost the services of the two trusted office bearers of the Chamber to whom they owe so great a debt of gratitude. Your Excellency has rightly interpreted the sense of opinion in this Chamber by conveying in your Address to both the Rulers, an expression of their gratitude that, in deference to the wishes of their brother Princes, they have consented to continue in the performance of their duties as Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor.

4. Your Excellency made a particular reference in your Address to the imperative necessity that the Indian States should adjust themselves to the rapidly changing currents of world opinion, and leave nothing undone which might be calculated to secure their own healthy development, and to safeguard their 'survival' as valued and respected elements in the new Indian policy. We are fully alive to the need of taking all necessary measures to safeguard our priceless heritage and to strengthen the foundations upon which it rests. Your Excellency was pleased to acknowledge, with your special knowledge of affairs, at one of the recent Sessions of this Chamber, 'that many Rulers have of late made earnest endeavours to improve their administrative standards, that various admirable reforms have been introduced, and that measures have in many cases been taken to ensure that all legitimate complaints on the part of the State subjects receive due consideration'. The latest position of benificent developments in the States, as revealed in the Chancellor's review of work today is a proof, if proof be needed, that this important matter has received our continued and close attention.

5. Your Excellency has reiterated this year what you had said in previous Addresses to this Chamber regarding the necessity, so far as the smaller States are concerned, for some form of co-operative measures to secure a standard of administrative efficiency which may be beyond their individual resources. This question has been receiving our careful and active consideration from all the view-points involved, and we are convinced that with goodwill and foresight on the part of all concerned, it is not impossible to reconcile the essential requirements of joint services, where-

needed, with due respect for the internal autonomy and sovereignty of the States concerned. We would accordingly invite Your Excellency's earnest consideration of the position stated by us last year, in some detail in our reply to Your Excellency's Address. The latest position in the matter has been reviewed carefully by the Committee of Ministers and by the Standing Committee of Princes, and the main conclusions reached may be stated as follows:—

- (a) that so long as the legitimate object of co-operative measures, that is employment of suitable officers and experts with requisite qualifications, is secured there should be no necessity for any scheme of co-operative groupings, and that reasonable alternative proposals evolved by the States amongst themselves should be given a fair trial. We are encouraged to feel that this would be in accordance with Your Excellency's own wishes in the matter, in view of the assurance conveyed in the Political Secretary's letter, dated the 3rd February 1941 to the Chancellor that 'His Excellency the Crown Representative will always be prepared to give sympathetic consideration to any reasonable suggestions which the States concerned may wish to make towards the solution of administrative and other difficulties'.
- (b) that the choice of States for co-operative grouping need not be limited to States in relation with the same political officer. Administrative convenience, and past historical traditions, and not physical contiguity alone should be the decisive factor in this matter.
- (c) that the States so desiring should have full liberty of deciding upon any particular group or feasible scheme.
- (d) that the minimum requirements of efficient administration which if not met by the States concerned individually, would necessitate their joining some suitable scheme of co-operative measures, as also the scope of such measures, should be clearly defined. It would be desirable, in our opinion, to confine such measures, where necessary, to judiciary and police.
- (e) that the minimum qualifications necessary for common High Court Judges and for common Police officers in any scheme of co-operative grouping should be prescribed in consultation with the States concerned, and the appointment of such officers, where needed, and the control over the agreed scheme of joint services should be left to the States concerned. Moreover, while the assistance of Political Officers should be available to the States if and when sought in this matter, it is strongly felt, and we confidently hope that Your Excellency would share the feeling, that in the interests of the objective in view no less than on grounds of fairness, equity and justice, no room should be left for any apprehension or concern, which is unfortunately prevailing, that the scheme of co-operative grouping is intended to introduce undue interference in the internal affairs of States.
- (f) that the States having officers with the experience and qualifications of the standard prescribed for common officers, should not be obliged to join any scheme of co-operative grouping

merely because the other States adjoining them cannot maintain or have any effective scheme of co-operative grouping without the former being included.

We feel confident that these suggestions taken as a basis are likely to lead to a settlement of this delicate question in a manner satisfactory to all concerned. The question of security of tenure and other points of doubt or difficulty could easily be resolved by a friendly exchange of views between the representatives of States concerned and officers of the Political Department. In this connection, we would also invite attention to the fact that the pre-occupations of States with war work at this critical juncture have resulted in some of these problems not receiving the attention which they would have received in normal peace-times.

6. Your Excellency made a reference in your Address to the scheme under consideration designed for the safeguarding, during the initial years of young Ruler's responsibilities, of standards achieved under periods of minority administration. We need hardly assure Your Excellency that any reasonable safeguards designed for the purpose of inculcating into young Princes the habit of orderly and methodical disposal of business will receive from us the consideration which they deserve. We appreciate the fact that Your Excellency has taken us in confidence in the matter at this stage before a definite policy has been formulated. We trust that the Chancellor and the Standing Committee will be invited to discuss the proposed plan before it takes final shape. Moreover, we feel confident that it would be in accordance with Your Excellency's own desire and practice to pursue and strengthen the procedure of consulting the Chamber and the Standing Committee of the Chamber in all matters affecting the Rulers and the States in general. This procedure is indicated in the gracious message of His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor which was delivered at the inauguration of this Chamber, and is in accordance with the practice generally followed by Your Excellency and your distinguished predecessors in office.

7. Your Excellency has also referred in your Address to the vexed question of Civil List and Privy Purse. The problem has been receiving our active consideration. The Report of the Special Committee of Rulers to which this question was referred by us, has been framed with a view to assist such Rulers as may desire to examine or review this question for States. Our enquiries so far have shown that the desirability of separating the personal expenditure of the Ruler and of fixing it at some reasonable basis is generally recognised by the Princes. Moreover, the Administration Reports of various States and the data recently supplied in response to the Chancellor's enquiry show that a substantial majority of the Members of the Chamber of Princes have already separated their personal expenditure from the expenditure on State departments and fixed it on a reasonable basis. It is further understood that in many other cases the matter was receiving active consideration.

The question will soon be considered by the Standing Committee, which would, we have no doubt, welcome the benefit of informal consultation on the subject with Your Excellency's Political Adviser before our final conclusions are reached, so that if in any case the Political Officers are called upon to advise in respect of this matter, they may be instructed to adhere to the final conclusions reached in the matter.

8. Your Excellency has also made a reference in your address to 'the inestimable value of co-operation and the generous support' which we of the States have been privileged to render to war effort of India as a whole. We are glad to get Your Excellency's testimony to the effect, of which

we have always felt assured, that the response of the States in the war effort has continued to be worthy of their great traditions, and that their contributions cover every phase of India's war effort and embraces every form of service. Our assistance in this matter, Your Excellency is aware, has been given spontaneously and cheerfully, in fulfilment of our sacred obligations to the Crown and in support of the world cause at stake. The latest developments in the Far-East have brought the war to the gates of India. At this juncture, we wish respectfully to assure His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor that we stand determined to spare or stint nothing, within our power, till the war is won and the cause of sanctity of Treaties and the ordered progress of humanity is fully vindicated. We recognise that the demands of the war situation must become more insistent as the tempo of the struggle quickens. Your Excellency needs no assurance that in the defence of our Motherland and in response to the calls of His Imperial Majesty and the Commonwealth, the Indian States shall maintain and, where needed, augment the support which they have given freely and spontaneously.

We note with gratification, Your Excellency's sympathetic reference to the untimely demise and sad demise of the Heir-apparent of Sikkim, in the course of his duties as an officer of the Indian Air Force, we would request Your Excellency to offer to His Highness the Maharaja of Sikkim, on behalf of this Chamber, a sincere expression of our deepest sympathy.

9. We appreciate the fact that the scope of the measures taken to achieve maximum co-ordination between the States and British India has steadily expanded without affecting their internal autonomy. In this connection, we welcome the opportunity, of contributing to the setting up of a united front, afforded to representative Princes by participation in the deliberations of the National Defence Council. Your Excellency may confidently count upon the continuation at the future meetings of this Council, of the support of the Rulers and Representatives of Indian States to the fullest extent possible.

10. We share Your Excellency's belief that the representation of the States on the Central Price Control Conference and other similar organizations and the informal discussions with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Supply, Commerce and Civil Defence Members of your Council has been of the greatest advantage. In this connection we appreciate the decision that in order to place, readily and promptly at the disposal of the States, the fullest and most up-to-date information on economic, Civil Defence and other matters direct correspondence between certain Departments of the Government of India and the larger States has been authorised. We trust that the rigidity of red-tapism will not be insisted upon at this critical juncture even in the case of other States.

11. We appreciate the appointment of a Special Officer on the Staff of the Civil Defence Department to deal solely with Civil Defence problems affecting the States. We will not fail to seek the advice of that department, where needed, on the measures which we are taking and should be taken to provide adequate protection for our subjects, against the consequences of attacks from the air.

12. We are glad to be assured by Your Excellency that steps have been taken to make good the deficiency of modern arms and equipment available for supply to the training units of the Indian States Forces, so far as the situation permits. We appreciate that in the present circumstances it must be left to the General Headquarters to decide how best such equipment of arms and ammunition as are available can be utilised. At the same time we would urge that necessary action in this matter may be expedited as best as possible.

13. Our representatives have expressed the desire from time to time that the States Forces Units should be given a more active role than had been allotted to them. We are glad to hear from Your Excellency's lips that all of our units serving with His Majesty's Forces, whatever their role, are contributing with equal value to the common object.

14. We are glad to receive the assurance that various proposals recently made, regarding the Indian States Forces are intended to have effect only for the duration of the war, and that the whole scheme under which these Forces are embodied will thereafter come under review in the light of the experience gained. We assume that when the time comes this will be done as in the past in consultation with our representatives. The delay in receiving the aforesaid assurance has in certain cases been responsible for the natural reluctance to deal with some of the impending proposals. Your Excellency may, however, depend on it that the Indian Rulers will not hesitate to agree temporarily to forego, in the common interest, prerogatives and privileges, however greatly they may be valued, which in their opinion would impede India's war effort.

15. We recognise that a constant stream of reinforcements of recruits must be maintained and that the need for augmenting present forces is insistent. We realise that young men of the best type are required to come forward and be trained to lead our troops. Your Excellency may depend on it that every able-bodied man and every unit that is not required for internal security shall be made available to resist and attack and finally to defeat the common enemy. The Indian States are ready and willing to make the utmost possible contribution to the forces which India may require to face aggression.

16. We appreciate Your Excellency's farsightedness in launching the National War Front. We are confident that it will attract the support which it richly deserves throughout India. We shall be delighted to give this movement the right impetus within our territories by example and precept.

17. Your Excellency made a reference in your Address to the forthcoming visit of the Lord Privy Seal. The Resolution adopted by us today assures him of our warm welcome and co-operation, in every way possible in the discharge of his great responsibilities. We are glad to be assured that we can count on his readiness to give our views the fullest consideration to which they are entitled.

18. We recognise the obligation resting on us all to secure for India a triumphant and happy issue out of this, her testing time of trial and danger. We shall not be found wanting in the response due to this clarion call. With that determination, we are marching on to face the future with courage, faith and conviction; pledged to offer full resistance to nazism and fascism in every shape or form, whether within or without the country, until their menace is finally overthrown.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** I am much obliged to His Highness the Chancellor for what he has said and I may assure Your Highnesses that I shall give careful consideration to the observations which have fallen from him. We have had a very useful session and I shall look forward, if both are spared to do so, for another year with His Highness the Chancellor. We worked together with great ease, if I may say so, and it has always been a pleasure to me to call His Highness in consultation whenever that was required. As I said in my earlier Address, I found him always most ready to oblige. I am very grateful to all Your Highnesses for the support which you have given to the Chair, and I should like once

again to express to Your Highnesses my deep sense of appreciation of the kindness which Your Highnesses in this Chamber have always afforded to me. During our deliberations I have heard with deep satisfaction those assurances of loyalty and devotion to the Throne and Person of the King-Emperor, to which assurances all Your Highnesses have adhered. I have been heartened too by hearing from the lips of so many of those Princes who have spoken, an affirmation of the unshakeable determination of the Princely Order to spare no effort to prosecute the War to a successful and victorious conclusion at the earliest possible moment. That is the spirit in which a great emergency should be faced. Let us not regret that our lot should be cast in these times of stress and danger. Rather let us declare that these are days in which a man should think himself fortunate to live, days for courage, days of high resolution and endeavour and days too of great achievements. (Cheers).

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**Resolutions passed by the Chamber of Princes (Narendra Mandal) during the session held on the 16th and 17th March 1942.**

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### **Agendum No. 1.**

*Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the demise of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught (Agendum No. 1).*

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes records its profound sense of grief at the demise of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who inaugurated this Chamber, and requests His Excellency the President to be so kind as to convey to Their Imperial Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress its deepest sympathies in their sad bereavement.”

### **Agendum No. 2.**

*Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Manipur, the Maharaja of Charkhari, the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra.*

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow on the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Manipur, the Maharaja of Charkhari, the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra, together with its sense of loss thereby sustained by the entire Order of the Princes and offers its sincere sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families.”

### **Agendum No. 3.**

*Resolution of welcome by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Kolhapur, the Maharaja of Manipur, the Maharaja of Bijawar, the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra.*

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes offers its heartiest congratulations to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaja of Kolhapur, the Maharaja of Manipur, the Maharaja of Bijawar, the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra on their accession to the Gaddi and wishes them a long and prosperous life.”

### **Agendum No. 4.**

*Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam saheb of Nawanagar on the latest position regarding the war situation.*

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes reiterates the firm determination of the Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India to continue to render every possible assistance to His Imperial Majesty and his Government for the successful prosecution of war and for the defence of their motherland, until final victory is achieved and the high principles of justice and sacredness of Treaties and Covenants are vindicated.”

**Agendum No. 5.**

*Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar regarding extension of time for appeals, etc., by the Ruler or the Government of the States in cases where limitation expires during the continuation of the war.*

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes recommends to His Excellency the Crown Representative that in cases in which the period of limitation prescribed for appeal, review, revision or representation, etc., to the Crown, or the Secretary of State for India, or the Crown Representative, or the Crown Department, expires during the continuance of the present war, and notice is given within time by the State concerned that it is proposed to postpone further action in the matter until the end of the war, the prescribed period of limitation shall be deemed to have been extended up to a period of one year after the conclusion of the war.”

**Agendum No. 7.**

*Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the Political situation in India so far as it affects the States.*

Resolved.—“(a) This Chamber welcomes the Announcement made in the House of Commons on the 11th March, 1942, by the Prime Minister and the forthcoming visit to India of the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons, and expresses the hope that it may help to unite India to intensify further her war effort and to strengthen measures for the defence of the motherland.

(b) This Chamber has repeatedly made it clear that any scheme to be acceptable to the States must effectively protect their rights arising from Treaties, Engagements and Sanads or otherwise and ensure the future existence, sovereignty and autonomy of the States thereunder guaranteed, and leave them complete freedom duly to discharge their obligations to the Crown and to their subjects; it therefore notes with particular satisfaction the reference in the Announcement of the Prime Minister to the fulfilment of the Treaty obligations to the Indian States.

(c) This Chamber authorises its representatives to carry on discussions and negotiations for the constitutional advance of India with due regard to the successful prosecution of war and the interests of States, and subject to final confirmation by the Chamber and without prejudice to the right of individual States to be consulted in respect of any proposals affecting their treaty or other inherent rights.”







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